



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192)

**October 13, 2020**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:04 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

All Council Members participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [20-0703](#) Community Safety

At approximately 12:05 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli made opening remarks on 2021-2022 budget items related to community safety.

Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance, introduced Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Manager, Media and Communications Office, and Reid Bennion, Lead Budget Analyst, Finance.

Mr. Colon provided an overview of the Council priority area, which focuses on increasing positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life. Mr. Bennion reviewed the results of community outreach. Ms. Johnston reviewed the City's key roles, as identified by staff, in advancing community safety, and community safety program expenses and funding in the 2021-2022 budget.

City Manager Pauli presented on the City's transformation efforts, completed and ongoing policing transformation efforts, and proposed budget items related to community safety transformation.

Don Ramsdell, Chief, Tacoma Police Department, reviewed the police services budget, noting reductions, mitigations, and enhancements; transformation in policing; and emergency response services and police services.

Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department, reviewed the fire and medical services budget, noting reductions, mitigations, and enhancements; the Basic Life Support transport services proposal; the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program; call volume and community need; the utility of a firefighter; the Emergency Medical Services levy; the GEMT implementation timeline; and the Behavioral Health Response unit.

Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), reviewed the NCS budget related to public safety, noting reductions, mitigations, and enhancements; and services related to safe housing and neighborhoods.

Kurtis Kingsolver, Director, Public Works, reviewed the Public Works budget related to public safety, noting reductions, mitigations, and enhancements; and infrastructure safety for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Discussion ensued regarding outreach methods and scope, police presence in communities, how responses to public safety calls will be coordinated, proposed staffing levels and status of the staffing study, behavioral health unit services, graffiti removal service levels and “highest need” areas, site reclamation, fire and life support services and equipment, potential impacts of service changes and reductions, equity, police hiring reductions and vacancies, minimizing service disruptions, and the traffic calming program.

The study session recessed at 2:12 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 2:22 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding fire engine reductions and response times; time frame for implementing service changes; how public safety calls will be handled during the transition; School Resource Officers; pothole repair and road paving; the budget process; reviewing net gains and losses; previous budget cuts and recovery; community policing; red light cameras; GEMT funding, implementation, and use in other states; public input on the police budget; methods for Council to provide feedback; and next steps.

2. [20-0704](#) Tideflats Interim Regulations Renewal Public Hearing Debrief

At approximately 3:33 p.m., Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services, presented the Tideflats Interim Regulations, including background; summary of the ordinance; prior Council review, including the September 29, 2020, public hearing; themes in the public comments; and next steps. He concluded by reviewing the status of the

Tideflats Subarea Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding past renewals, opportunities for public input, information available online at [cityoftacoma.org\tideflats](http://cityoftacoma.org/tideflats), public frustration with the lengthy process, and work that is underway.

3. [20-0705](#) Proposed Hotel Worker Ordinance

At approximately 3:48 p.m., Council Member Hunter presented a proposed ordinance, providing recall rights to laid-off hotel employees through March 2022, including background and purpose of the request.

Discussion ensued regarding a review by the Economic Development Committee.

4. [20-0719](#) Systems Transformation Update

At approximately 3:52 p.m., City Manager Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items, an opportunity to provide feedback by email to [voicesoftacoma@21cpsolutions.com](mailto:voicesoftacoma@21cpsolutions.com), the systems transformation update table, a next steps timeline, the draft transformation timeline, and information available at [www.cityoftacoma.org/transform](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/transform).

**Other Items of Interest**

Council Member Beale stated that he, Deputy Mayor Blocker, and Council Member Ushka plan to bring forward an amendment to the Residential Infill Pilot Program on tonight’s agenda.

**Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports given.

**Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**

5. [20-0706](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, October 8, 2020

City Manager Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight’s agenda, proclaiming October 17, 2020, as Orca Recovery Day, and there are no expected changes to tonight’s agenda.

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Mayor Woodards noted that the Committee of the Whole meeting will begin late, at approximately 4:10 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk